

10/696,382

1-12. (CANCELED)

13. (NEW) A method of controlling a lift car located in a lift shaft, which serves to define at least two or more stations between which the lift car can be driven and at each of the at least two or more stations the lift car can be caused to stop to enable at least one of a person and an article to one of enter and leave the lift car, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the lift car with a scanning device directed outwardly from the lift car;

providing an independent scanning extension at each of the at least two or more stations;

upon arrival of the lift car at one station of the at least two or more stations equipped with the scanning extension, aligning the scanning device with the scanning extension at the one station in a juxtaposed arrangement to form an operable combination;

scanning a predetermined region of the one station by the operable combination to provide an output signal representing a state of the predetermined region indicating whether or not the predetermined region is occupied; and

using one of the output signal and a function of the output signal, in an event one of the output signal and the function of the output signal represents a predetermined condition, to regulate subsequent operation of the lift car.

14. (NEW) The method of sensory control according to claim 13, further comprising the step of scanning the predetermined region by way of a scanning device embodied as a camera and the scanning extension incorporating one of a refractive and a reflective component to provide for a view of the predetermined region to be conveyed to the scanning device.

15. (NEW) A lift system having a lift car located in a lift shaft which serves to define a number of separate stations, the lift car being stoppable at each of the separate stations to enable a person to one of enter and leave the lift car, the lift system comprising a scanning device, supported by the lift car, and being directed outwardly of the lift car, a scanning extension at each of the separate stations at which the lift car

1/30/06 1:53 PM

10/696,382

can be stopped, and when the lift car is stopped at a given station, the scanning extension is juxtaposed with the scanning device of the given station to provide a combined unit directed at a predetermined region of the given station, and the scanning device is adapted to provide on an output signal representing a state of the predetermined region.

16. (NEW) The lift system according to claim 15, wherein the scanning device is a camera and the scanning extension incorporates one of a refractive and a reflective component whereby a view of the predetermined region is conveyed to the scanning device.

17. (NEW) The lift system according to claim 15 wherein a sensor system, comprising a plurality of portals through which signals representing states of the predetermined regions can enter a sensor environment and be multiplexed into a single signal processing system so that movement of the lift forms a mechanically multiplexed switch whereby connection and continuity of each signal path is determined by a position of the lift car within the lift shaft and at any station the sensor environment is uniquely connected to the signal portal by mechanical alignment and signal continuity achieved by one of radiated means and conducted means.

18. (NEW) A method of scanning an area adjacent an elevator entry of an elevator, the elevator having an elevator car located in an elevator shaft and the elevator providing service to at least two floors, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the elevator car with a camera mounted thereon with the camera facing outwardly from the elevator car;

providing one of a reflective and a refractive component at each of the at least two floors;

when the elevator car stops at a desired floor of the at least two floors, aligning the scanning device with one of the reflective and the refractive component to form an operable combination;

scanning the elevator entry with the operable combination to provide an output signal representing an elevator entry state indicating whether or not the elevator entry is occupied; and

V2061-10/27 AM

10/696,382

using one of the output signal and a function of the output signal to regulate subsequent operation of the elevator car when one of the output signal and the function thereof represents a predetermined condition.

1/30/06 - 10:27 AM

- 6 -